



C. A. Y. F. Newsletter

This is an occasional newsletter from the Crouch Area Yachting Federation for affiliated Clubs, issued only when there is something of interest to tell your members. Designed to be pinned on noticeboards

Issue 2 October 2015

Please be aware of the very high tidal predictions in the near future

Clubs are advised that due to the natural 19 year astronomical cycle there will be a number of exceptionally high tides throughout the period of September 2015 to January 2016. Mariners should also be aware that the increased tidal ranges will also affect the low water period and subsequently the available water over these periods is predicted to be much less than on normal spring tides.

The dates where the most notable high tides are expected are:
30th October 2015 25th – 27th December 2015 11th – 14th January 2016

New Coastal team to promote tourism on the Crouch

Maldon District Council together with Rochford District Council is bringing together businesses, councillors, community officers, community volunteers and leisure representatives to form one group to promote tourism on the River Crouch. A grant of £10,000 has been obtained from the Department of Communities, to draw up and consult on an integrated plan across District boundaries, using the River Crouch as the main focus point to share ideas on how best to promote the area. Once the plan is complete it is then planned to secure funding from Europe to implement the plan over a 6 year timeframe.

At a meeting on Wednesday at Brandy Hole a diverse group representing the Crouch valley community as a whole (including CAYF representatives, CHA Harbourmaster and CHA members) met together to gather and discuss how best to promote tourism and leisure activities as an Economic Plan. With the other stakeholders we identified a range of initial ideas, issues of funding and possible barriers to progress. Stage 1 which is the completion of a plan identifying objectives and the economic delivery is to be completed by March 2016.

Crouch Harbour Authority River Roach - New Buoys Established

Clubs are advised that the following new buoys have been established in the River Roach (Upper).

Name	Position	Characteristic	Light
Sutton Wharf No 1	51° 34.674 N 000° 43.647 E	Green Conical Lighted Buoy	QG
Sutton Wharf No 2	51° 34.690 N 000° 43.854 E	Red Can Lighted Buoy	QR
Sutton Wharf No 3	51° 34.799 N 000° 44.654 E	Green Conical Lighted Buoy	QG
Sutton Wharf No 4	51° 34.839 N 000° 44.784 E	Red Can Lighted Buoy	QR

The following buoys have been moved to new positions as follows:

Name	New Position	Characteristic	Light
Top Rochford No 7	51° 34.832 N 000° 45.009 E	Green Conical Lighted Buoy	QG
Top Rochford No 8	51° 34.817 N 000° 45.190 E	Red Can Lighted Buoy	QR

Havengore and Potton Bridges, and the River Roach

You may recall CAYF are concerned at the frequent closure of the Havengore and Potton Bridges, recently through a lack of bridge keepers. This is an ancient protected right of navigation and we are eager to see this right protected. We have so far involved the local MP, challenged the now private company that runs the Foulness ranges on behalf of the MOD and have now taken the issue to the MOD Minister.

We are awaiting a formal reply, but it seems the MOD stance is that they don't have any influence over what they consider Private land and they don't acknowledge ownership of Potton Bridge, even though they built it. CAYF maintain the "Ancient Rights of Navigation over Tidal Waters" comes in to play and the MOD have a duty to maintain the operation of the bridge.

The CHA, RSA and RMHA are with local yards looking at placing navigation withies and yard buoys in Potton Creek from the "Violet" through to Wakering Yard. This is a very narrow winding creek but a well used cut through to the Havengore Bridge from the Roach by fishing and leisure craft. It passes under the Potton swing bridge!

Concern has been raised over the clearance under high voltage power cables in Paglesham Creek. Clem met UK Power engineers at the site and they agreed that the poles have moved and cable height has dropped. These cables were only replaced a year ago and it would appear that no stays were fitted to the poles. This should be rectified in due course but no timescale was given we will monitor the situation.

New Owners at Paglesham Boatyard,

Many Clubs will be aware that the yard at Paglesham known as Shuttlewoods has been sold. The new owners are Maclean Marine Engineering. This is a new company to the area who have transformed the old yard back into a working unit. The owners main line business at the yard will be to fit out large luxury houseboats for the London market. These will be hulls prefabricated on the South Coast and brought by sea to Paglesham for final fitting out before delivery back into the Thames. Parts of the yard and moorings will trade as a boat yard and the new owners wish to work alongside the existing mooring holders and continue the long established relationship the location has with them in the past. It is hoped by the new owners to be up and running early 2016.

For a while all Clubs are asked **not** to use the yards pontoon as its considered now a dangerous structure. Shore side very limited parking whilst the yard is being remodelled. Yard moorings and slipway are **not** to be used by visiting boats till further notice. A CHA **Notice to Mariners No 33 of 2015** has been issued covering this.

There is a small walkway across the saltings in Paglesham Pool near the Pill box which will allow access at half tide to the sea wall path. Please be careful as it is very weedy and slippery.

Club feedback to the RYA

Clubs will be aware there was significant concern at the lack of response back to the RYA requests for information this year. The RYA requested individual follow up at forums and individually with the Club Commodores. This provoked the following rather blunt feedback:-

- Some of the various contacts used by the RYA were out of date. With modern technology it was felt that the RYA should use one up to date database, based on the annual the affiliation fee return.
- Club officers are busy volunteers and “skim” a large variety of incoming the messages to clubs, if the message is not obvious or too lengthy it is dumped! The RYA information to Clubs requiring feedback should be to short, be simple and focussed.

This has been fed back to the chairman of ECRYA and to the RYA at Hamble to hopefully improve the communication between the RYA and Clubs.

RYA Affiliates Conference: 14 November at Royal Harwich Yacht Club

For the first time the RYA will be facilitating a nationwide programme of RYA Affiliates conferences. The primary aim of these conferences is to educate clubs as to the wide variety of services available to support the work that they do.

The conference is free to club officers and key volunteers. During the day clubs will receive an overview of the different services available from those that are directly involved. Clubs will have the opportunity to network with other clubs, book clinics with RYA staff and volunteers and attend workshops focused on Push the Boat out and CASC (delivered by Mandy Peters, RYA Legal advisor).

The Eastern Region event will be at Royal Harwich Yacht Club on the 14th November. CAYF would very much like to encourage all RYA Affiliated Clubs to attend. It will help their understanding of how the RYA add value to the Club. The event will be free, teas, coffees and lunch will be provided. I pass on some more information during the committee meeting.

Mussel Fishery River Stour

Wash Mussels Limited` has applied to the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for an order under the Sea Fisheries (Shellfish) Act1967 for a period of 5 years to have exclusive rights to cultivate and harvest shellfish of the kind specified in the order on the River Stour.

Many CAYF Clubs wrote objecting to this application earlier thisn year which may restrict popular anchorages. Subsequently HASA arranged a meeting with the Mussel Farm Directors and their solicitors to re assess the area where the Mussel Farm wants to be, there are five areas up the River Stour where they want this all to take place, altogether the Mussel Farm wants to use 66 Hectares of the River Stour.

The Harwich Harbour Master was not keen on having floating markers, which would happen if they had Crab pots and with commercial boats very near this could cause a problem, also in this area the local sailing club do most of there racing there. The local fishermen are very annoyed about it, as it will affect their livelihood as they are charter skippers and take people out to fish for Bass in the very areas the Mussel Farm wants to lay there Seed Mussels. A second meeting is to be sought.

CAYF Officers representing your interests

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